

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                    1.        A method for aircraft telecommunications comprising the steps of:  
2                    identifying a current service volume;  
3                    identifying an available VHF communications channel frequency from a table  
4 of preferred VHF communications frequencies associated with said current service volume;  
5                    selecting a preferred communications attribute from a table of attributes  
6 associated with said current service volume and according to said available VHF  
7 communications channel frequency; and  
8                    effecting airborne communications utilizing said preferred communications  
9 attribute.
- 1                    2.        The method of claim 1 wherein said predefined service volumes comprise  
2 geographic regions other than rectangular regions.
- 1                    3.        The method of claim 1 wherein said service volumes further include at  
2 least one subset of area.
- 1                    4.        The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a preferred  
2 communications attribute includes the step of selecting a VHF communications channel.
- 1                    5.        The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a preferred  
2 communications attribute includes the step of selecting a SATCOM communications channel.
- 1                    6.        The method of claim 1 wherein said step of selecting a preferred  
2 communications attribute includes the step of selecting an HF communications channel.
- 1                    7.        The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of manually selecting a  
2 second preferred communications attribute different than said preferred communications  
3 attribute.
- 1                    8.        The method of claim 1 wherein said step of identifying a current  
2 service volume further comprises the steps of:  
3                    determining a current aircraft position; and



the prior art

7                   a second computer instruction means for identifying an available VHF  
8 communications channel frequency from a table of preferred VHF communications  
9 frequencies associated with said current service volume;

10                   a third computer instruction for selecting a preferred communications  
11 attribute from a table of attributes associated with said current service volume and according  
12 to said available VHF communications channel frequency; and

13                   a fourth computer instruction means for effecting airborne  
14 communications utilizing said preferred communications attribute.

1                   14.     The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said first computer  
2 instruction means further includes a fifth computer instruction means for reading a current  
3 position of the aircraft.

1                   15.     The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said fourth  
2 computer instruction means selects a preferred communications channel.

1                   16.     The computer program product of claim 13 wherein said first computer  
2 instruction means further includes a fifth computer instruction means for identifying a current  
3 service area located within said current service volume.

1                   17.     A communications apparatus for effecting airborne communications  
2 comprising:

3                   an input for receiving a message to be transmitted from an aircraft;

4                   a logic device for identifying a preferred communications attribute to be  
5 utilized in transmitting said message as a function of: a service volume; and at least one of a  
6 VHF frequency preference and a channel preference; and

7                   a router for effecting airborne communications according to said preferred  
8 communications attribute.

1                   18.     The communications apparatus of claim 17 wherein said logic device  
2 comprises a computer readable medium.

